

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. Applicants notes the Examiner's courtesy during the telephone interview of February 1, 2010. Applicants further note with appreciation the allowance of claims 16-33 and the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 2, 3, 5-10, 13 and 14.

During the telephone conversation, the Examiner indicated that the recent Notice of Abandonment dated November 30, 2009 was incorrect. The Examiner agreed that the application should not have been abandoned by the Examiner.

The Examiner requested that Applicants file a request for continued examination with this Amendment as the requisite submission. Specifically, the Examiner requested that claims 1, 4, 11, 12 and 15 – in which their rejections were affirmed by the Board in the Decision of Appeal dated September 23, 2009 – be canceled and that appropriate dependent claims from these canceled claims be placed in independent form given the indication of allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith a request for continued examination with this Amendment as the requisite submission. With entry of this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1, 4, 11, 12 and 15 and place claims 2, 5, 8 and 13 in independent form.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to

Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 393032040000.

Dated: February 1, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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